

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05  
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 /091 W  
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R 100923Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1321  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 1238

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PERP, NP, KN  
SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN VICE PRESIDENT VISITS NEPAL

REF: STATE 060433

DPRK VICE PRESIDENT KANG RYANG UK DEPARTED KATHMANDU MARCH  
9 AFTER SIX DAY OFFICIAL VISIT. STAY INCLUDED USUAL ROUND  
OF CEREMONIAL EXCHANGES FOR NON-HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, SUBSTANTIVE  
SESSION BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS (LASTING ONLY HOUR AND HALF),  
AND EXCHANGE OF CALLS INVOLVING GON PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN  
MINISTER AND FINANCE MINISTER. KANG ALSO TRAVELED TO SURKHET  
IN FAR WESTERN NEPAL TO CALL ON KING BIRENDRA WHO IS ON  
EXTENDED INSPECTION TOUR OF THAT AREA.

2. ON SUBSTANTIVE SIDE, NO JOINT COMMUNIQUE WAS ISSUED.  
COMMENTS TO PRESS AFTER MEETING OF TWO DELEGATIONS MENTIONED  
AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES.  
HOWEVER, WHILE THERE WILL APPARENTLY BE EXCHANGE OF DELEGATIONS  
TO THIS END, PROBLEMS--INCLUDING GEOGRAPHIC SEPARATION BETWEEN  
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TWO COUNTRIES--WERE ALSO RECOGNIZED BY REFERENCES TO NEED FOR  
FINDING "PRACTICAL WAYS AND MEANS" TO INCREASE SUCH COOPERATION.

3. EXCHANGE OF DINNER SPEECHES AS REPORTED IN PRESS CONTAINED  
FEW SURPRISES. DPRK VP REITERATED--AND PRIME MINISTER BISTA  
WELCOMED--NORTH KOREAN SUPPORT FOR CONCEPT OF NEPAL AS ZONE OF  
PEACE. BISTA FOR HIS PART REITERATED NEPALESE SUPPORT FOR

"ASPIRATIONS OF KOREAN PEOPLE FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION" WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM "ANY FOREIGN POWER IN ANY WAY. BISTA DEVOTED SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF HIS REMARKS TO ENDORSEMENT OF PRINCIPLE OF NON-ALIGNMENT FOLLOWED BY NEPAL. BOTH LEADERS MENTIONED MUTUAL DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND THERE WAS EXCHANGE OF COMPLIMENTS FOR EACH OTHER'S EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD. KANG COMMENTED ON NEPALESE INTERNAL POLITICS, WELCOMING EFFORTS OF GON UNDER KING "TO SOLIDIFY THE PANCHAYAT SYSTEM."

4. WHAT WAS MORE INTERESTING ABOUT KANG'S SPEECH WAS FACT THAT NEPALESE PRESS TOTALLY IGNORED ROUGHLY QUARTER OF HIS REMARKS WHICH DEALT WITH REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND ATTACK ON US. SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH COPY OF ADDRESS IN WHICH KANG CHARGED THAT OCCUPATION OF SOUTH KOREA BY FOREIGN TROOPS PREVENTS REUNIFICATION; ACCUSED US OF SEEKING TO PERPETUATE DIVISION; CLAIMED US AND SOUTH KOREAN RULING CIRCLES" ARE "DASHING TO A ROAD OF NEW WAR VENTURE" BY STAGING "LARGEST SCALE MILITARY EXERCISES" SINCE ARMISTICE. KANG WENT ON TO SAY US TROOPS MUST BE WITHDRAWN AND CLAIMED THIS GOAL "ENJOYING POSITIVE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER." HE SAID KOREAN PEOPLE WOULD CRUSH THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL "SPLITTISTS" AND EXPRESSED "HEARTFELT THANKS" FOR NEPALESE "SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO OUR PEOPLE IN THEIR STRUGGLE FOR THE INDEPENDENT AND PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE FATHER LAND." NOT ONE WORD OF THIS WAS CARRIED IN ANY SECTION OF THE LOCAL PRESS.

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3. COMMENT: FROM A PUBLIC STANDPOINT VISIT WAS VERY MUCH ONE OF GOOD WILL RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE. HOWEVER, GIVEN ACT THAT TWO YEARS AGO NORTH KOREANS WERE CAUGHT PRINTING ANTI-MONARCHY MATERIALS IN THEIR CULTURAL CENTER HERE, REITERATION OF GOOD WILL HAS GREATER SIGNIFICANCE FOR BOTH SIDES THAN MIGHT OTHERWISE BE CASE. HOWEVER, WE SEE NO INDICATIONS IN THIS VISIT OF ANY DILUTION OF NEPAL'S "NEUTRAL" POLICY ON KOREA. IN FACT, FOREIGN SECRETARY BHATT TOLD DCM MARCH 9 THAT NORTH KOREANS WERE NOT VERY HAPPY AT GON'S REITERATION OF ITS POSITION ON THE KOREAN QUESTION AND ASSURED DCM THERE NO CHANGE IN NEPALESE STANCE. SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE TELLS US HE HAS RECEIVED SIMILAR ASSURANCES FROM MFA OFFICIALS. THERE WAS PUBLIC HINT OF THIS SAME POSITION WHEN OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORY ON ROKG EFFORTS TO REOPEN TALKS WITH NORTH KOREA DIRECTLY ALONG SIDE ARTICLE REPORTING BISTA'S ENDORSEMENT OF PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION. AT LEAST TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE READERS IMPRESSION WAS CLEARLY LEFT THAT BURDEN OF RESPONSE WAS ON DPRK. BHATT ALSO SAID THAT A SECOND AIM OF NORTH KOREANS DURING THEIR VISIT WAS TO EXPRESS THEIR OPPOSITION TO SOUTH KOREA'S JOINING THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. HE SAID HE DID NOT GET ANY INDICATION OF NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS TO BRING UP KOREAN

ISSUE AT UNGA.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**To:** STATE  
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